

NAEP 2003 Reading Report for Idaho

KEY FINDINGS

For grade 8:

- The average reading scale score for students in Idaho was 264. This was not found to differ significantly from that of 2002 (266).
- Idaho's average score (264) was higher than that of the nation's public schools (261).
- Students' average scores in Idaho were higher than those in 18 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 19 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 15 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students in Idaho who performed at or above the *Proficient* level was 32 percent. This was not found to differ significantly from that in 2002 (34 percent).
- In Idaho, the percentage of students who performed at or above *Proficient* was not found to differ significantly from that for the nation's public schools (30 percent).



This report provides selected results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for Idaho's public-school students at grade 8. Since 1992, reading has been assessed in five different years at the state level (at grade 4 in 1992 and 1994, and at both grades 4 and 8 in 1998, 2002, and 2003). In 2003, 53 jurisdictions participated: the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools, and Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas). Idaho participated and met the criteria for reporting public-school results at grade 4 in 1992, and at both grades 4 and 8 in 2002 and 2003.

NAEP is a project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). For more information about the assessment, see *The Nation's Report Card, Reading Highlights 2003* or *The Nation's Report Card: Reading 2003*, which will be available in 2004. The full set of results is available in an interactive database on the NAEP web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>). Released test questions, scoring guides, and question-level performance data are also available on the web site.

The U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has provided software that generated user-selectable data, statistical significance test result statements, and technical descriptions of the NAEP assessments for this report. Content may be added or edited by states or other jurisdictions. This document, therefore, is not an official publication of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Introduction

What Was Assessed?

The content for each NAEP assessment is determined by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB). The development process for reading required the active participation of teachers, curriculum specialists, subject-matter specialists, local school administrators, parents, and members of the general public. The objectives for each NAEP assessment are described in a "framework," a document that delineates the important content and process areas to be measured, as well as the types of questions to be included on the assessment. The reading framework is available on the NAGB web site (http://www.nagb.org/pubs/read_fw_03.pdf).

The reading framework for the 1992 and 1994 reading assessments also guided the 1998, 2000 (national grade 4 only), 2002, and 2003 assessments. This framework was developed under the auspices of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and directed by NAGB. In 2002, the framework was updated to provide more explicit detail regarding the assessment design. In the process, some of the terms used to describe elements of the reading assessment were altered slightly. It should be noted, however, that these alterations do not represent a change in the content or design of the NAEP reading assessment.

The framework is founded on a body of research from the field of education that defines reading as an interactive and constructive process involving the reader, the text, and the context of the reading experience. Reading involves the development of an understanding of text, thinking about the text in different ways, and using a variety of text types for different purposes.

Recognizing that readers vary their approach to reading different texts, the framework specifies the assessment of reading in three contexts: reading for literary experience, reading to gain information, and reading to perform a task. Each context for reading is associated with a range of different types of texts that are included in the NAEP reading assessment. All three contexts for reading are assessed at grades 8 and 12, but reading to perform a task is not assessed at grade 4.

As readers attempt to develop an understanding of a text, they focus on general topics or themes, interpret and integrate ideas, make connections to background knowledge and experiences, and examine the content and structure of the text. The framework accounts for these different approaches to understanding text by specifying four "aspects of reading" that represent the types of comprehension questions asked of students. All four aspects of reading are assessed at all three grades within each context for reading. The reading framework specifies the percentage distribution of questions by grade level for each of the contexts for and aspects of reading.

The assessment contains reading materials that were drawn from sources commonly available to students both in and out of the school environment. These authentic materials were considered to be representative of students' typical reading experiences. Each student in the state assessment was asked to complete two 25-minute sections, each consisting of a reading passage and associated comprehension questions. A combination of multiple-choice and constructed-response questions was used to assess students' understanding of the passages. Released NAEP reading passages and questions, along with student performance data by state, are available on the NAEP web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls/>).

How Is Student Reading Performance Reported?

The results of student performance on the NAEP assessments are reported for various groups of students (e.g., fourth-grade female students or students who took the assessment in different years). NAEP does not produce scores for individual students or report scores for schools. Nor are data produced for school districts, except that some large urban districts voluntarily participated in the assessment on a trial basis and were sampled as states were sampled. Reading performance for groups of students is reported in two ways: 1) average scale scores and 2) achievement levels.

Scale Scores: Student performance is reported as an average score based on the NAEP reading scale, which ranges from 0 to 500 and is linked to the corresponding scales in 1992, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2002. Subscales were created to report performance on each of the contexts for reading defined in the NAEP reading framework. An overall composite scale was developed by weighting each of the reading subscales for the grade (two at grade 4 and three at grade 8) based on its relative importance in the framework. This composite scale is the metric used to present the average scale scores and selected percentiles used in NAEP reports.

Achievement Levels: Student reading performance is also reported in terms of three achievement levels—*Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. Results based on achievement levels are expressed in terms of the percentage of students who attained each level. The three achievement levels are defined as follows:

- *Basic:* This level denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade.
- *Proficient:* This level represents solid academic performance for each grade assessed. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.
- *Advanced:* This level signifies superior performance.

The achievement levels are performance standards adopted by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) as part of its statutory responsibilities mandated by Congress. The levels represent collective judgments of what students should know and be able to do for each grade tested. They are based on recommendations made by broadly representative panels of classroom teachers, education specialists, and members of the general public. As provided by law, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), upon review of congressionally mandated evaluations of NAEP, has determined that the achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis until it is determined that the achievement levels are "reasonable, valid, and informative to the public."¹ However, both NCES and NAGB believe these performance standards are useful for understanding trends in student achievement. They have been widely used by national and state officials as a common yardstick for academic performance. The reading achievement-level descriptions are summarized in figure 1.

Cautions in Interpreting Results

The averages and percentages in this report have a standard error—a range of up to a few points above or below the score—which takes into account potential score fluctuation due to sampling error and measurement error. Statistical tests that factor in these standard errors are used to determine whether the differences between average scores or percentages are significant. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the 0.05 level. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller standard errors. As a consequence, smaller differences are detected as statistically significant than in previous assessments.

In this report, statistically significant differences are referred to as "significant differences" or "significantly different." Significant differences between 2003 and prior assessments are marked with a notation (*) in the tables. Any differences in scores within a year or across years that are mentioned in the text as "higher," "lower," "greater," or "smaller" are statistically significant.

Estimates based on small subgroups are likely to have large standard errors. Consequently some seemingly large differences may not be statistically significant. The reader is cautioned to rely on reported differences in the tables and/or text, which are statistically significant, rather than on the apparent magnitude of any difference. Readers are also cautioned against interpreting NAEP results causally. Inferences related to subgroup performance, for example, should take into account the many socioeconomic and educational factors that may affect student performance.

1. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107–110, 115 Stat. 1425 (2001).

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FIGURE
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The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment

Descriptions of NAEP reading achievement levels, grade 8

Basic Level (243)	Eighth-grade students performing at the <i>Basic</i> level should demonstrate a literal understanding of what they read and be able to make some interpretations. When reading text appropriate to eighth grade, they should be able to identify specific aspects of the text that reflect the overall meaning, extend the ideas in the text by making simple inferences, recognize and relate interpretations and connections among ideas in the text to personal experience, and draw conclusions based on the text.
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For example, when reading **literary** text, *Basic*-level eighth graders should be able to identify themes and make inferences and logical predictions about aspects such as plot and characters.

When reading **informational** text, they should be able to identify the main idea and the author's purpose. They should make inferences and draw conclusions supported by information in the text. They should recognize the relationships among the facts, ideas, events, and concepts of the text (e.g., cause and effect and chronological order).

When reading **practical** text, they should be able to identify the main purpose and make predictions about the relatively obvious outcomes of procedures in the text.

Proficient Level (281)	Eighth-grade students performing at the <i>Proficient</i> level should be able to show an overall understanding of the text, including inferential as well as literal information. When reading text appropriate to eighth grade, they should be able to extend the ideas in the text by making clear inferences from it, by drawing conclusions, and by making connections to their own experiences—including other reading experiences. <i>Proficient</i> eighth graders should be able to identify some of the devices authors use in composing text.
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For example, when reading **literary** text, students at the *Proficient* level should be able to give details and examples to support themes that they identify. They should be able to use implied as well as explicit information in articulating themes; to interpret the actions, behaviors, and motives of characters; and to identify the use of literary devices such as personification and foreshadowing.

When reading **informational** text, they should be able to summarize the text using explicit and implied information and support conclusions with inferences based on the text.

When reading **practical** text, *Proficient*-level students should be able to describe its purpose and support their views with examples and details. They should be able to judge the importance of certain steps and procedures.

Advanced Level (323)	Eighth-grade students performing at the <i>Advanced</i> level should be able to describe the more abstract themes and ideas of the overall text. When reading text appropriate to eighth grade, they should be able to analyze both meaning and form and support their analyses explicitly with examples from the text, and they should be able to extend text information by relating it to their experiences and to world events. At this level, student responses should be thorough, thoughtful, and extensive.
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For example, when reading **literary** text, *Advanced*-level eighth graders should be able to make complex, abstract summaries and theme statements. They should be able to describe the interactions of various literary elements (i.e., setting, plot, characters, and theme) and explain how the use of literary devices affects both the meaning of the text and their response to the author's style. They should be able critically to analyze and evaluate the composition of the text.

When reading **informational** text, they should be able to analyze the author's purpose and point of view. They should be able to use cultural and historical background information to develop perspectives on the text and be able to apply text information to broad issues and world situations.

When reading **practical** text, *Advanced*-level students should be able to synthesize information that will guide their performance, apply text information to new situations, and critique the usefulness of the form and content.

SOURCE: National Assessment Governing Board. (2002). *Reading Framework for the 2003 National Assessment of Educational Progress*. Washington, DC: Author.

NAEP Reading 2003 Overall Scale Score and Achievement-Level Results for Public School Students

Overall Scale Score Results

In this section student performance is reported as an average score based on the NAEP reading scale, which ranges from 0 to 500. Scores on this scale are comparable from 1992 through 2003.

Table 1 shows the overall performance results of grade 8 public school students in Idaho and the nation. The first column of results presents the average score on the NAEP reading scale. The subsequent columns show the score at selected percentiles. The percentile indicates the percentage of students who performed below the score for that percentile. For example, 10 percent of the students had scores that were lower than the score shown for the 10th percentile.

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Grade 8 Scale Score Results

- In 2003, the average scale score for students in Idaho was 264. This was higher than that of students across the nation (261).
- In Idaho, the average scale score for students in 2003 was not found to differ significantly from that in 2002 (266). However, the average scale score for students across the nation in 2003 was lower than that in 2002 (263).

TABLE 1	The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment					
	Average reading scale scores and selected percentiles, grade 8 public schools: 2002 and 2003					

		Average Scale Score	Scale score distribution				
			10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile	90th Percentile
Accommodations permitted							
2002	Idaho	266 (1.1)	225 (1.3)	248 (1.1)	269 (1.5)	288 (0.8)	304 (1.8)
	Nation (Public)	263 (0.5)*	219 (0.9)*	242 (0.5)*	265 (0.6)*	286 (0.5)	303 (0.3)
2003	Idaho	264 (0.9)	221 (1.9)	245 (1.9)	267 (1.0)	287 (1.1)	304 (1.7)
	Nation (Public)	261 (0.2)	215 (0.5)	240 (0.3)	264 (0.3)	286 (0.3)	304 (0.3)

* Value is significantly different from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2003.

NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. The standard errors of the statistics in the table appear in parentheses. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the 0.05 level using unrounded numbers. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 and 2003 Reading Assessments.

Overall Achievement-Level Results

In this section student performance is reported as the percentage of students performing relative to standards set by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB). These performance standards for what students should know and be able to do were based on the recommendations of broadly representative panels of educators and members of the public.

Table 2 presents the percentage of students at grade 8 who performed below *Basic*, at or above *Basic*, at or above *Proficient*, and at the *Advanced* level. Because the percentages are cumulative from *Basic* to *Proficient* to *Advanced*, they sum to more than 100 percent. Only the percentage of students performing at or above *Basic* (which includes the students at *Proficient* and *Advanced*) plus the students below *Basic* will sum to 100 percent (except for rounding).

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Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results

- In 2003, the percentage of Idaho's students who performed at or above the *Proficient* level was 32 percent. This was not found to differ significantly from the percentage of the nation's public school students who performed at or above *Proficient* (30 percent).
- In Idaho, the percentage of students who performed at or above the *Proficient* level in 2003 was not found to differ significantly from that in 2002 (34 percent).

TABLE 2

The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment

Percentage of students at or above each reading achievement level, grade 8 public schools: 2002 and 2003

		Below <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Proficient</i>	Advanced
Accommodations permitted					
	2002 Idaho	21 (1.1)	79 (1.1)	34 (2.0)	2 (0.5)
	Nation (Public)	26 (0.5)*	74 (0.5)*	31 (0.6)	2 (0.2)
	2003 Idaho	24 (1.3)	76 (1.3)	32 (1.4)	2 (0.5)
	Nation (Public)	28 (0.3)	72 (0.3)	30 (0.3)	3 (0.1)

* Value is significantly different from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2003.

NOTE: The standard errors of the statistics in the table appear in parentheses. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP reading scale: below *Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; and *Advanced*, 323 and above. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the 0.05 level using unrounded numbers. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 and 2003 Reading Assessments.

Comparisons Between Idaho and Other Participating States and Jurisdictions

In 2003, 53 jurisdictions participated in the reading assessment. These include the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the two groups of Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) schools: Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) and Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS).

Grade 8 Scale Score Comparisons Results

- Students' scale scores in Idaho were higher than those in 18 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 19 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 15 jurisdictions.

Comparisons by Average Scale Scores

Figure 2 compares Idaho's 2003 overall reading scale scores at grade 8 with those of all other participating states and jurisdictions. The different shadings indicate whether a state's or jurisdiction's average scale score was found to be higher than, lower than, or not significantly different from that of Idaho in the NAEP 2003 reading assessment.

Comparisons by Achievement Levels

Figure 3 permits comparisons of all jurisdictions participating in the NAEP 2003 reading assessment in terms of percentages of grade 8 students performing at or above the *Proficient* level. The participating states and jurisdictions are grouped into categories reflecting student performance compared to that in Idaho. The jurisdictions are grouped by whether the percentage of their students with scores at or above the *Proficient* level (including *Advanced*) was found to be higher than, not significantly different from, or lower than the percentage in Idaho. Note that the arrangement of the states and the other jurisdictions within each category is alphabetical; statistical comparisons among jurisdictions within each of the three categories are not included in this report. Cross-state comparisons are available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Comparisons Results

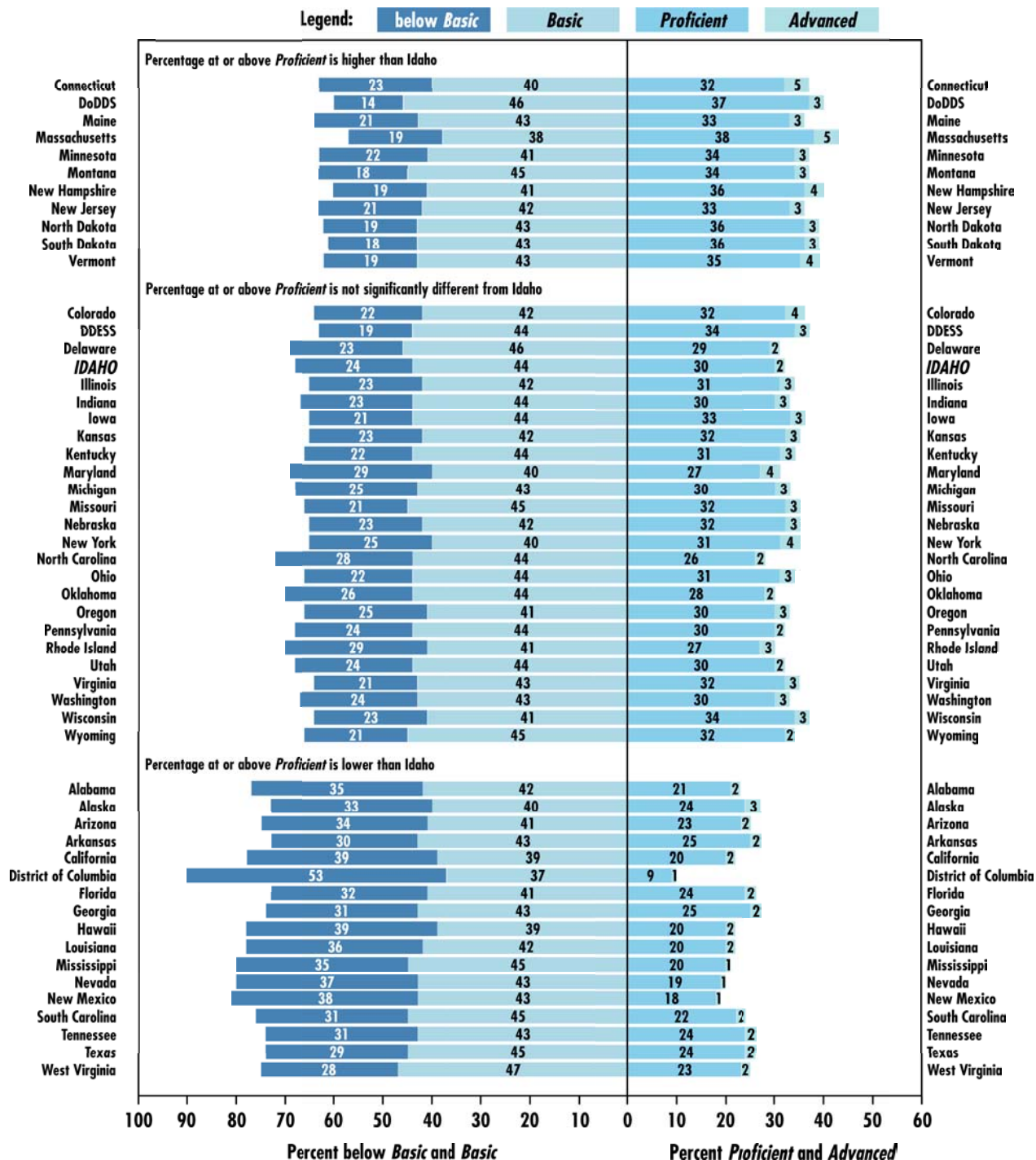
- At grade 8, 11 jurisdictions had higher percentages of students at or above the *Proficient* level than that of Idaho, 24 jurisdictions had percentages that were not significantly different from that of Idaho, and 17 jurisdictions had lower percentages than that of Idaho.

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FIGURE 3

The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment

Percentage of students within each reading achievement-level range, and Idaho's percentage at or above Proficient compared with other participating jurisdictions, grade 8 public schools: By state, 2003



DDESS: Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools.

DoDDS: Department of Defense Dependents Schools (Overseas).

NOTE: The bars above contain percentages of students in each NAEP reading achievement range. Achievement levels corresponding to each population of students are aligned at the point where the *Proficient* category begins, so that they may be compared at *Proficient* and above. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Assessment.

Reading Performance by Demographic Characteristics

This section of the report presents trend results for students in Idaho and the nation by demographic characteristics. Student performance data are reported for:

- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- Eligibility for free/reduced-price school lunch
- Type of location (2002 and later)

Definitions of NAEP reporting groups are available on the NAEP web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/results2003/interpret-results.asp#RepGroups>).

Each of the variables is reported in tables that present the percentage of students belonging to each subgroup in the first column and the average scale score in the second column. The columns to the right show the percentage of students at or above each achievement-level.

The reader is cautioned against making causal inferences about the performance of groups of students relative to demographic variables. Many factors other than those discussed here, including home and school factors, may affect student performance.

NAEP collects information on many additional variables, including school and home factors related to achievement. All of this information is in an interactive database available on the NAEP web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>).

Gender

Information on student gender is reported by schools on rosters of students eligible to be assessed.

Table 3 shows scale scores and achievement-level data for public-school students at grade 8 in Idaho and the nation by gender.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Gender

- In Idaho, male students' average scale score was 258 in 2003. This was lower than that of female students (271).
- In 2003, male students in Idaho had an average scale score in reading (258) that was not found to differ significantly from that of male students across the nation (256). Female students in Idaho had an average score (271) that was higher than that of female students nationwide (267).
- In Idaho, the average scale scores of both males and females were not found to differ significantly in 2003 from those in 2002.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Gender

- In 2003, 26 percent of males and 39 percent of females performed at or above the *Proficient* level in Idaho. The difference between these percentages was significant.
- The percentage of males in Idaho's public schools who were at or above the *Proficient* level in 2003 (26 percent) was not found to be significantly different from that of males in the nation (25 percent).
- The percentage of females in Idaho's public schools who were at or above the *Proficient* level in 2003 (39 percent) was not found to be significantly different from that of females in the nation (35 percent).
- In Idaho, the percentages of both males and females performing at or above the *Proficient* level were not found to differ significantly in 2003 from those in 2002.

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TABLE
3

The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment

Average reading scale scores and percentage of students at or above each achievement level, by gender, grade 8 public schools: 2002 and 2003

	Percentage of Students	Average Scale Score	Below <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Proficient</i>	At <i>Advanced</i>
Male						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	48 (1.0)	259 (1.5)	28 (1.7)	72 (1.7)	25 (2.6)	1 (0.4)
Nation (Public)	50 (0.3)	258 (0.5)*	30 (0.6)*	70 (0.6)*	26 (0.6)	2 (0.2)
2003 Idaho	50 (1.1)	258 (1.2)	29 (1.9)	71 (1.9)	26 (1.7)	1 (0.4)
Nation (Public)	50 (0.2)	256 (0.3)	33 (0.3)	67 (0.3)	25 (0.3)	2 (0.1)
Female						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	52 (1.0)	273 (1.1)	14 (1.0)*	86 (1.0)*	41 (2.0)	3 (0.9)
Nation (Public)	50 (0.3)	267 (0.5)	21 (0.6)*	79 (0.6)*	36 (0.6)	3 (0.3)
2003 Idaho	50 (1.1)	271 (1.0)	18 (1.3)	82 (1.3)	39 (1.8)	4 (0.8)
Nation (Public)	50 (0.2)	267 (0.3)	23 (0.3)	77 (0.3)	35 (0.3)	4 (0.1)

* Value is significantly different from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2003.

NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. The standard errors of the statistics in the table appear in parentheses. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP reading scale: below *Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; and *Advanced*, 323 and above. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the 0.05 level using unrounded numbers. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 and 2003 Reading Assessments.

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Race/Ethnicity

Schools report the racial/ethnic subgroup that best described the students eligible to be assessed. The five mutually exclusive categories are White, Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native.

Table 4 shows scale scores and achievement-level data for public-school students at grade 8 in Idaho and the nation by race/ethnicity.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Race/Ethnicity

- In Idaho in 2003, the percentage of White students performing at or above the *Proficient* level was greater than that of Hispanic students.
- The differences in the respective percentages of White and Hispanic students in Idaho performing at or above the *Proficient* level between 2003 and 2002 were not found to be significant.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Race/Ethnicity

- In 2003, White students in Idaho had an average scale score that was higher than that of Hispanic students.
- The differences in the respective scale scores of White and Hispanic students in Idaho between 2003 and 2002 were not found to be significant.

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TABLE
4

The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment

Average reading scale scores and percentage of students at or above each achievement level, by race/ethnicity, grade 8 public schools: 2002 and 2003

	Percentage of Students	Average Scale Score	Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced
White						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	89 (0.7)	269 (1.1)	18 (1.1)	82 (1.1)	35 (2.2)	2 (0.6)
Nation (Public)	64 (0.6)*	271 (0.5)	17 (0.5)	83 (0.5)	39 (0.7)	3 (0.3)
2003 Idaho	87 (0.7)	267 (0.9)	21 (1.2)	79 (1.2)	35 (1.5)	3 (0.6)
Nation (Public)	61 (0.4)	270 (0.2)	18 (0.3)	82 (0.3)	39 (0.3)	4 (0.1)
Black						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	1 (0.2)!	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)
Nation (Public)	15 (0.4)*	244 (0.8)	46 (1.0)	54 (1.0)	13 (0.7)	# (0.2)
2003 Idaho	# (0.1)!	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)
Nation (Public)	17 (0.3)	244 (0.5)	47 (0.6)	53 (0.6)	12 (0.4)	# (0.1)
Hispanic						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	8 (0.6)	247 (2.9)	44 (5.3)	56 (5.3)	17 (3.1)	1 (***)
Nation (Public)	15 (0.4)	245 (0.8)	44 (1.3)	56 (1.3)	14 (0.8)	# (0.2)
2003 Idaho	10 (0.7)	242 (2.8)	47 (4.4)	53 (4.4)	12 (2.9)	# (***)
Nation (Public)	15 (0.3)	244 (0.7)	46 (1.0)	54 (1.0)	14 (0.6)	1 (0.2)
Asian/Pacific Islander						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	1 (0.2)!	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)
Nation (Public)	4 (0.2)	265 (1.7)	25 (2.2)	75 (2.2)	34 (2.0)	3 (0.8)
2003 Idaho	1 (0.2)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)
Nation (Public)	4 (0.2)	268 (1.2)	22 (1.3)	78 (1.3)	38 (1.7)	5 (0.6)
American Indian						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	2 (0.3)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)
Nation (Public)	1 (0.1)	252 (2.5)	36 (4.1)	64 (4.1)	18 (2.2)	1 (***)
2003 Idaho	1 (0.2)!	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)	--- (---)
Nation (Public)	1 (0.1)	248 (1.7)	41 (2.4)	59 (2.4)	18 (1.6)	1 (0.3)

--- Reporting standards are not met. Sample size is insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

Estimate rounds to zero.

* Value is significantly different from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2003.

(***) Standard error estimate cannot be accurately determined.

! The nature of the sample does not allow accurate determination of the variability of the statistic.

NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. The standard errors of the statistics in the table appear in parentheses. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP reading scale: below *Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; and *Advanced*, 323 and above. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the 0.05 level using unrounded numbers. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 and 2003 Reading Assessments.

Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility

NAEP collects data on eligibility for the federal program providing free or reduced-price school lunches. The free/reduced-price lunch component of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is designed to ensure that children near or below the poverty line receive nourishing meals. This program is available to public schools, nonprofit private schools, and residential child-care institutions. Eligibility is determined through the USDA's Income Eligibility Guidelines, and results for this category of students are included as an indicator of poverty. NAEP first collected information on participation in this program in 1996.

Table 5 shows scale scores and achievement-level data for public-school students at grade 8 in Idaho and the nation by eligibility for free/reduced-price lunch.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility

- Students in Idaho eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average reading scale score of 254. This was lower than that of students in Idaho not eligible for this program (270).
- Students in Idaho eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average scale score (254) that was higher than that of students in the nation who were eligible (246).
- In Idaho, students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average reading scale score in 2003 (254) that was lower than that of eligible students in 2002 (259).

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Free/Reduced-Price Lunch Eligibility

- In Idaho, 22 percent of students who were eligible for free/reduced-price lunch and 38 percent of those who were not eligible for this program performed at or above the *Proficient* level. These percentages were found to be significantly different from one another.
- For students in Idaho who were eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, the percentage at or above the *Proficient* level (22 percent) was greater than the corresponding percentage for their counterparts around the nation (15 percent).
- In Idaho, the percentage of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch who performed at or above the *Proficient* level for 2003 (22 percent) was not found to be significantly different from the corresponding percentage for 2002 (26 percent).

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TABLE
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The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment

Average reading scale scores and percentage of students at or above each achievement level, by eligibility for free/reduced-price school lunch, grade 8 public schools: 2002 and 2003

	Percentage of Students	Average Scale Score	Below <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Proficient</i>	At <i>Advanced</i>
Eligible						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	33 (1.5)	259 (1.7)*	29 (2.1)	71 (2.1)	26 (2.2)	2 (0.7)
Nation (Public)	34 (0.7)*	249 (0.5)*	40 (0.7)*	60 (0.7)*	17 (0.5)*	1 (0.1)
2003 Idaho	34 (1.2)	254 (1.4)	34 (2.0)	66 (2.0)	22 (2.0)	1 (***)
Nation (Public)	36 (0.4)	246 (0.4)	44 (0.5)	56 (0.5)	15 (0.3)	1 (0.1)
Not Eligible						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	58 (2.0)	270 (1.3)	16 (1.4)	84 (1.4)	37 (2.9)	2 (0.6)
Nation (Public)	57 (1.1)	271 (0.5)	17 (0.5)*	83 (0.5)*	40 (0.6)	3 (0.3)
2003 Idaho	57 (1.3)	270 (1.2)	18 (1.4)	82 (1.4)	38 (1.9)	4 (0.8)
Nation (Public)	58 (0.5)	271 (0.3)	18 (0.3)	82 (0.3)	39 (0.4)	4 (0.1)
Information Not Available						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	8 (1.0)	269 (2.8)	18 (3.4)	82 (3.4)	39 (4.9)	3 (***)
Nation (Public)	10 (1.0)*	264 (2.5)	25 (2.0)	75 (2.0)	32 (2.7)	4 (1.9)
2003 Idaho	9 (0.6)	268 (2.0)	19 (2.9)	81 (2.9)	36 (4.3)	2 (0.9)
Nation (Public)	6 (0.4)	262 (1.0)	28 (1.1)	72 (1.1)	31 (1.1)	3 (0.5)

* Value is significantly different from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2003.

(***) Standard error estimate cannot be accurately determined.

NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. The standard errors of the statistics in the table appear in parentheses. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP reading scale: below *Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; and *Advanced*, 323 and above. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the 0.05 level using unrounded numbers. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 and 2003 Reading Assessments.

Type of Location

Schools that participated in the assessment were classified into three mutually exclusive types of community in which the school is located: central city, urban fringe/large town, and rural/small town. These categories indicate the geographic locations of schools. Central city is geographical term meaning the largest city of a Metropolitan Statistical Area and is not synonymous with "inner city."

Recently, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) introduced new methods to identify the type of location assigned to each school in the Common Core of Data (CCD). The new methods were put into place by NCES in order to improve the quality of the assignments, and they take into account more information about the exact physical location of the school. The variable was revised in NAEP beginning with the 2000 assessment; therefore, results are not presented for assessment years prior to 2000.

Table 6 shows scale scores and achievement-level data for public-school students at grade 8 in Idaho and the nation by type of location.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Type of Location

- In 2003, the percentage of students attending schools in central cities in Idaho who performed at or above the *Proficient* level was not found to differ significantly from the corresponding percentages for students in urban fringes/large towns and rural areas/small towns.
- The differences in the respective percentages of students attending schools in central cities, urban fringes/large towns, and rural areas/small towns in Idaho performing at or above the *Proficient* level between 2003 and 2002 were not found to be significant.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Type of Location

- In 2003, in Idaho, the average scale score of students attending schools in central cities was not found to differ significantly from that of students in urban fringes/large towns or rural areas/small towns.
- The differences in average scale scores of students attending schools in central cities, urban fringes/large towns, and rural areas/small towns in Idaho between 2003 and 2002 were not found to be significant.

NAEP 2003 Reading Report for Idaho

TABLE
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The Nation's Report Card 2003 State Assessment

Average reading scale scores and percentage of students at or above each achievement level, by type of location, grade 8 public schools: 2002 and 2003

	Percentage of Students	Average Scale Score	Below <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Proficient</i>	At <i>Advanced</i>
Central City						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	19 (2.7)	270 (3.1)	17 (2.9)	83 (2.9)	35 (4.8)	2 (1.2)
Nation (Public)	27 (0.6)	254 (0.7)	36 (0.9)	64 (0.9)	23 (0.9)	2 (0.2)
2003 Idaho	20 (1.2)	265 (2.3)	24 (2.5)	76 (2.5)	33 (3.1)	4 (1.0)
Nation (Public)	27 (0.4)	253 (0.5)	37 (0.6)	63 (0.6)	22 (0.5)	2 (0.1)
Urban Fringe/Large Town						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	16 (1.6)	264 (2.1)	25 (3.1)	75 (3.1)	30 (3.6)	2 (1.2)
Nation (Public)	42 (0.7)	266 (0.8)	22 (0.8)	78 (0.8)	35 (1.0)	3 (0.4)
2003 Idaho	18 (1.2)	260 (1.9)	28 (3.0)	72 (3.0)	28 (3.3)	2 (0.6)
Nation (Public)	42 (0.4)	265 (0.5)	24 (0.4)	76 (0.4)	34 (0.5)	3 (0.1)
Rural/Small Town						
Accommodations permitted						
2002 Idaho	65 (1.6)	266 (1.0)	21 (1.2)	79 (1.2)	34 (1.7)	2 (0.7)
Nation (Public)	31 (0.6)	266 (0.6)*	22 (0.6)*	78 (0.6)*	33 (0.7)	2 (0.4)
2003 Idaho	63 (1.1)	265 (1.3)	22 (1.8)	78 (1.8)	33 (1.9)	2 (0.6)
Nation (Public)	31 (0.4)	264 (0.4)	25 (0.4)	75 (0.4)	31 (0.5)	2 (0.1)

* Value is significantly different from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2003.

NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. The standard errors of the statistics in the table appear in parentheses. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP reading scale: below *Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; and *Advanced*, 323 and above. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the 0.05 level using unrounded numbers. Details may not sum to totals due to rounding. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 and 2003 Reading Assessments.

NAEP 2003 Reading Report for Idaho

What is The Nation's Report Card?

THE NATION'S REPORT CARD, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, history, geography, and other fields. By making objective information on student performance available to policymakers at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement is collected under this program. NAEP guarantees the privacy of individual students and their families.

NAEP is a congressionally mandated project of the National Center for Education Statistics, within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. The Commissioner of Education Statistics is responsible, by law, for carrying out the NAEP project through competitive awards to qualified organizations.

In 1988, Congress established the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) to oversee and set policy for NAEP. The Board is responsible for: selecting the subject areas to be assessed; setting appropriate student achievement levels; developing assessment objectives and test specifications; developing a process for the review of the assessment; designing the assessment methodology; developing guidelines for reporting and disseminating NAEP results; developing standards and procedures for interstate, regional, and national comparisons; determining the appropriateness of all assessment items and ensuring the assessment items are free from bias and are secular, neutral, and nonideological; taking actions to improve the form, content, use, and reporting of results of the National Assessment; and planning and executing the initial public release of National Assessment of Educational Progress reports.

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